

Medicare Rx Update: December 1, 2005

Locking and loading for pharmacies...

As preparations for the January 1, 2006 implementation of the new Medicare drug benefit continue, we will be sending more updates to help you prepare. For example, today we will be announcing a series of steps designed to assure the transition of dual eligibles from the Medicaid program to the Medicare program. (Fact Sheet) <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/media/press/release.asp?Counter=1736>
(FAQ) http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/cmshhs.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=6248

Additionally, NDCHealth is announcing that the Part D Eligibility solution will go live for pharmacy testing. NDCHealth will be providing pharmacists the opportunity to test drive this new functionality... free of charge... for the entire month of December so that pharmacists can become familiar with the new eligibility capability prior to implementation.

www.NDCHealth.com

...Preparing for implementation is the key to success

In the coming days, we will be providing more training materials on systems, technology and processes for pharmacies. We will be working with our pharmacy partners to make sure that auto-enrolled beneficiaries can get the drugs they need at their favorite pharmacy. And importantly, we will continue to emphasize the key role that pharmacists will play in the success of this benefit.

http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/cmshhs.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=6325

While we haven't said it enough, and there is still much work to be done, on behalf of Dr. McClellan and Secretary Leavitt, thank you for all you have done up to this point in helping us actualize this tremendous new benefit for Medicare beneficiaries.